

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14 and 16 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 3, 7, 11, 15 and 17-20 are cancelled.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 6, 8-10, 12-14 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 2, 5-6, 9-10, and 13-14 are in condition for allowance due to the deletion of the term "mathematical matrix." With regard to claims 17-20, the rejection is moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable in view of Schwuttke et al. The rejection of claims 3, 7, 11 and 15 is moot due to the cancellation of these claims. Claim 1 is amended to include,

...extracting a plurality of data values **corresponding to numerical values which identify physical or electrical characteristics of respective electronic equipment in a circuit...**

...associating each data value of the plurality of data values with one of a plurality of geometric shapes according to a predetermined set of rules... (Emphasis added).

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at page 8, lines 5-15. With regard to claim 1, Schwuttke et al. does not disclose or suggest associating data values, **corresponding to numerical values which identify physical or electrical characteristics of respective electronic equipment**, with geometric shapes. Schwuttke et al. includes data values which correspond to a plurality of spacecraft missions. (Col. 6, lines 8-13). The grid in Fig. 4 of Schwuttke et al. displays categories of data parameters used in the missions such as communications, power, control systems and propulsion. (Col. 6, lines 16-20 and Fig. 4). These data parameters do not correspond to numerical values which identify physical or electrical characteristics of respective electronic equipment.

According to the exemplary embodiment of Applicant's invention, circuit components may be represented by data values detailing technical specifications of the components. (Page 8, lines 9-11). For, example the physical dimensions of a transistor or the electrical resistance

of a conductor may be represented by data values. (Page 8, lines 12-15). Geometric shapes associated with these data values may then be placed on a grid. (Page 8, lines 16-17).

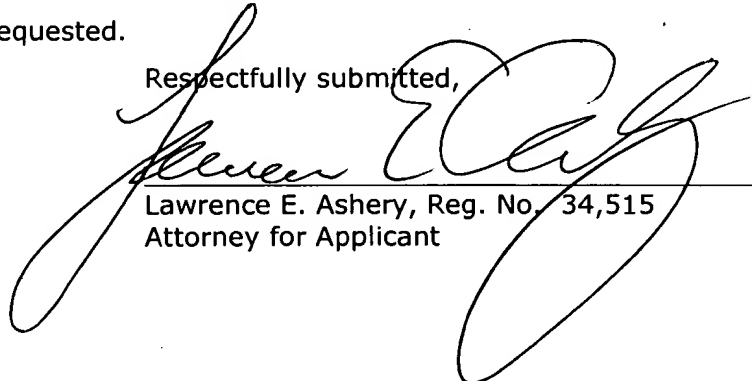
Applicant's claimed feature of associating data values, corresponding to numerical values which identify physical or electrical characteristics of respective electronic equipment is advantageous over the prior art because the physical and electrical characteristics of circuits that include large sets of data may be viewed more clearly.

Because Schwuttke et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Schwuttke et al. Claim 4 depends from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 4 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Schwuttke et al.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 13-14, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 13-14 are also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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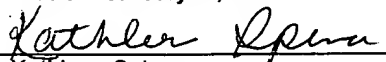
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